INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to JP 2002-57893, which is listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and of which a copy, together with its English-language abstract, is attached.

This document was cited during prosecution of a Japanese patent application corresponding to the above U.S. application. A copy of the Japanese Office Action, which is dated April 20, 2007, is attached.

In view of this date, it is hereby certified under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) that each document in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

The Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing and returning a copy of the attached Form PTO-1449.